LETTERS/Gazette Telegraph,

4/10/93

End all calls for boycotts

The Gazette Telegraph incorrectly reported that an April 6 meeting and news conference, "Voice of Reason," was organized by the Chamber of Commerce. The meeting was scheduled by the Greater Colorado Springs Economic Development Corp., a separate organization for business attraction, and the chamber was not involved in its planning or execution.

The chamber does support the intent of the meeting, which was to bring an end to misguided calls for boycotts and other economic sanctions in the aftermath of Amendment 2. Since November, the chamber has spoken out against the use of boycotts as a political tool. We have fought to counter the effects of a national boycott directed against our city and state by opponents of Amendment 2. We are equally opposed to suggestions of boycott by its supporters.

Boycotts are indiscriminate. They unfairly injure innocent businesses and their employees, inevitably causing the loss of jobs and economic harm to those who can least afford it. Yet, as if the national calls for a boycott against Colorado weren't enough, we've seen local residents on both sides of the issue turn their anger against each other, suggesting boycotts of individual businesses or threats of published lists of companies unfriendly to their respective positions. In our view, this not only deepens the internal wounds but appears to be illegal. Colorado law prohibits individuals or groups from publishing notice of a boycott against private companies.

Since shortly after the election, we have urged both sides of this divisive issue to stop the economic violence. At a time when Colorado Springs' economic recovery remains in delicate balance, we can ill afford to derail it from within. It is time for both sides to lay down their arms, and for all of us to work together for a stronger community.

— **John Fowler**
President
Chamber of Commerce
Colorado Springs

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